

Undergraduate Enrollment Set To Increase by 300, Though Not Soon

By Margaret Cuniff

For years, MIT has dreamed of increasing the number of undergraduates back to 4,500. That dream is still distant. Adding about 300 students means adding support staff, adding more sections of the General Institute Requirements and finding a place for all the students to stay. Adding students means finishing the renovation of the undergraduate dormitory W1, and untold other costs.

"We're not ready to increase the student body size," Chancellor Philip Clay said. "We haven't systematically explored the questions yet."

Though the Institute Task Force suggested increasing enrollment as a way for MIT to make more money, MIT might actually lose money by admitting more students, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 said. Administrators say that the real reason they want to add students is to give more students a chance at an MIT education.

"Report after report from the government [says] the country needs to produce more engineers," Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80 said. "In service to the nation and the world, we'd like to educate more students," Schmill said.



ARFA ALJAZI—THE TECH

W1, which will house at least 460 undergraduates, is the cornerstone of MIT's long-term plans to increase enrollment by 300 students.

W1 renovation is key

Before class size can increase in a significant way, MIT must find a place to put the students. MIT's undergraduate dorms are operating near capacity,

with many forced triples and quads. W1, which planners say will house at least 460 students, must be finished in

More Undergrads, Page 15

Three MIT Students Win Rhodes, Setting An Institute Record

By Ana Lyons

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Three MIT students were named Rhodes Scholars last Sunday, setting a record for the number of MIT students awarded the prestigious Oxford fellowship in any one year.

Ugwechi W. Amadi '10, Caroline J. Huang '10, and Steven Mo '10 were among the 32 American and 80 international recipients of this year's scholarship, which will allow them to pursue any course of full-time postgraduate study at the University of Oxford for up to three years.

"Everything has been surreal," Huang said in an e-mail. "The quality of the other applicants in my district was extremely high; I feel extremely fortunate to have won."

After being nominated by their home university, two winners were chosen from each U.S. district by the Rhodes Trust based on an extensive series of essays, letters of recommendation, and rounds of interviews. Judges rate applicants on their scholarship, athletics, community service, and character.

"The support from MIT has been unbelievable," said Huang. "It's a grueling process — transcript, two-page curriculum vitae, 1,000 word essay that essentially says who you are and what you want to do with your life, eight letters of recommendation, and an institutional endorsement — but it was bearable because of the support from MIT."

The award covers all university fees and includes a stipend for living and travel, which is estimated to amount to roughly \$50,000 per year.

MIT's three recipients each hailed from different U.S. regions.

Ugwechi Amadi

Amadi (Camden, North Carolina — District 5) is a senior majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences with a minor in literature. At MIT, she has been active in post-traumatic stress disorder and atherosclerotic restenosis research as well as brain and atrophy research at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Rhodes, Page 15

Second Time's the Charm For Students Looking to Fulfill Their MIT Dream

By Clare Bayley

You don't always get into the college you want, but some students get a second chance.

Hundreds of students try to transfer to MIT every year. About 20 make it. Those lucky few have proven themselves at their own colleges, and have come to MIT looking for new challenges. For some, the Institute is everything they dreamed of. Others find the adjustment to MIT's academic expectations and stressful lifestyle difficult. All of them give up schools which may have been easier,

more social, or closer to home to come tool with the rest of the students at the Institute.

The Road to MIT

Many transfer applicants once tried to get in as freshmen, but were rejected. Associate admissions director McGregor Crowley '00, says that too many talented students apply for MIT to take them all. "Every year there are some amazing kids that we can't admit as freshmen, and we

Transfer Students, Page 13

S^3 Dean Simonis Laid Off in Late June, Faculty Express Concern About Process

By Natasha Plotkin

NEWS EDITOR

This occasional feature follows up on news stories long past their prime. In this edition: the dismissal of long-time Student Support Services Dean

After Deadline

Jacqueline Simonis and what caused the faculty uproar over her departure.

On June 22, 2009, Jacqueline Simonis was abruptly dismissed from her job as associate dean and co-director of Student Support Services after 23 years at MIT.

According to a July 9 letter written from six faculty members to

former faculty chairs, Simonis was told she was being laid off due to budget cuts and that her job would end immediately.

"She was told that she was expected to be available to coordinate the transfer of her responsibilities while working from home," the letter stated. "She was not allowed to speak with her colleagues in private, nor to return to work in her office."

Around the same time, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo lowered S^3's reporting rank within the Division of Student Life and moved to initiate an administrative review of S^3's services.

Neither Colombo nor any other administrator had consulted faculty

members about the decision to lay off Simonis, the decision to restructure S^3, or the decision to initiate a review of S^3.

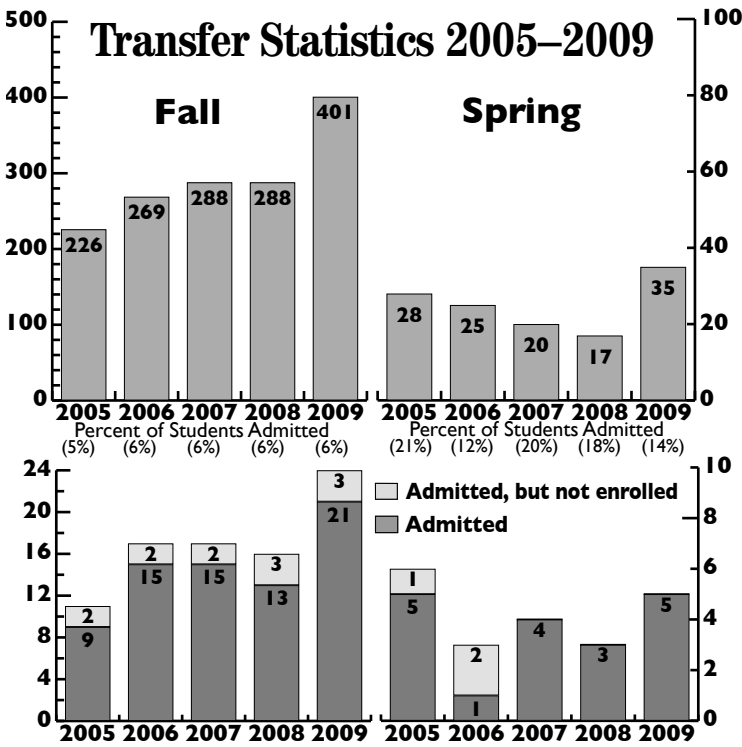
These actions aggravated some faculty members and prompted a flurry of letters and heated discussions. The faculty had three major concerns, which Clay summarized in an article in the September/October issue of the Faculty Newsletter:

¶ first, that such important changes had been made without faculty consultation;

¶ second, that the changes might "degrade" S^3's quality of service;

¶ and last, that the manner in

S^3, Page 12



Most students apply for transfer in the fall, when the admit rate is around 6 percent. US citizens can also apply for spring admission.

Zwane Death Deemed a Suicide

The death of Kabelo Zwane, a sophomore studying mechanical engineering, has been ruled a suicide, according to Terrel Harris of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

Zwane was found dead in a wooded area in Bedford, Mass. on November 7 by a hiker. A plastic bag containing helium was wrapped around his head. The body was released to relatives in Swaziland on November 16.

Walk-in counseling is available weekdays in E23 from 2–4 p.m. People may also call 617-253-2916.

"He was the sweetest guy I've ever met ... a really kind, soft spoken person," said Holly B. Sweet, associate director of Experimental Study Group and Zwane's freshman advisor.

A memorial service will be held after the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Institute chaplain Robert M. Randolph.

—Nick Bushak

OPINION

Editorial: Will dining reforms repeat history?

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A defense of capitalism

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ARTS

A movie roundup for Thanksgiving break:

2012. Page 6

Precious. Page 6

New Moon. Page 7

In Short

¶ **Going Home?** MIT is running shuttles to Logan Airport today and tomorrow. The cost is \$10. To reserve a seat, fill out the airport shuttle reservation request form at <http://dof-web.mit.edu/shuttles/airshuttle.asp>.

¶ **The Student Center Will Close** for Thanksgiving Break on Wednesday, November 25 at 11 p.m. It will reopen on Friday, November 27 at 7 a.m.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

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WORLD & NATION

From the Lab, a New Weapon Against Cholesterol

By Anne Eisenberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The particles that ferry cholesterol through the bloodstream are known as “bad” or “good”: bad if they deposit cholesterol on vessel walls, potentially clogging them; good if they carry the cholesterol on to the liver for excretion.

Now scientists have created tiny particles in the laboratory that mimic those good carriers, scooping up the cholesterol before it can grow into dangerous deposits of plaque. The surfaces of these new particles are coated with fats and proteins so they can bind tightly with the sticky cholesterol to transport it through the bloodstream.

The particles may someday be important in treating cardiovascular disease, said Dr. Andre Nel, chief of the division of nanomedicine and director of the Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

“Researchers have endowed these artificial particles with the same properties as natural particles that circulate in the blood,” called high-density lipoproteins, or HDL, he said. The artificial carriers can clean up sites where plaques can otherwise rupture, leading to strokes and heart attacks.

U.S. to Set Short-Term Goal Before Climate Change Summit Meeting

By John M. Broder

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The United States will propose a near-term target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions before the U.N climate change summit meeting in Copenhagen next month, a senior administration official said Monday. President Barack Obama, the official said, will announce the specific target “in coming days.”

The announcement of a target will take the current legislative stalemate over a climate bill into account, the senior official said, and thus might present a range of possible reductions rather than a single figure.

The lack of consensus in Congress puts Obama in a tricky domestic and diplomatic bind. He cannot promise more than Congress may eventually deliver when it takes up climate change legislation next year. But if he does not offer some concrete pledge, the United States will bear the brunt of the blame for the lack of an international agreement.

The official also said the president would decide soon whether and for how long he might attend the December climate meeting, which runs from Dec. 7 to Dec. 18. He repeated the president’s assertion that he would consider attending if his presence could be a useful impetus to a deal.

China Wants to Slow Credit Boom

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Chinese banking regulators are putting pressure on the country’s banks to raise more capital and temper their rapid growth in lending, in a clear sign of official concern about the sustainability of the nation’s credit boom, senior Chinese bankers said Monday.

U.S. and European officials have also pressed their banks to shore up their finances in recent months, but the reasons behind the Chinese regulators’ capital-raising push are very different. In some ways, the regulatory pressure reflects the robustness of the Chinese economy, in contrast with lingering economic weakness in the West.

Western regulators have put pressure on the banks they oversee to raise money, often through the sale of overseas units and other assets, to rebuild capital bases depleted by losses on mortgage-backed securities and other investments. Western banks have moved to raise the money even as they have slowed their issuance of new loans, which has helped hold up their capital as a percentage of assets.

Proton Beams Are Back on Track at Collider

By Dennis Overbye

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Physicists returned to their future on Friday. About 10 p.m. outside Geneva, scientists at CERN, the European Center for Nuclear Research, succeeded in sending beams of protons clockwise around the 17-mile underground magnetic racetrack known as the Large Hadron Collider, the world’s biggest and most expensive physics experiment.

For physicists, the event was a milestone on the way back from disaster and the resumption of a 15-year, \$9 billion quest to investigate laws and forces that prevailed when the universe was less than a trillionth of a second old.

The collider was designed to accelerate protons to energies of seven trillion electron volts apiece and smash them together in tiny fireballs in an effort to replicate and study the conditions of the Big Bang.

The first time protons circled the collider, on Sept. 10, 2008, the event was celebrated with Champagne and midnight pajama parties around the world. But the festivities were cut short a few days later when an

electrical connection between a pair of the collider’s giant superconducting electromagnets vaporized.

Subsequent work revealed that the machine was riddled with thousands of connections unable to handle the high currents required to run the collider at its intended energy.

Physicists and engineers have spent the past year testing and making repairs. While they have not replaced all the faulty connections, they have patched things up enough to allow the collider to run at less than full speed.

Calling the past year’s work a “Herculean ... effort,” CERN’s director for accelerators, Steve Myers, said the engineers had learned from painful experience and understood the collider far better than they had before.

CERN’s director, Rolf Heuer, said in a statement, “It’s great to see beam circulating in the LHC again,” but he and others cautioned that there was a long way to go before the collider started producing the physics it was designed for.

When the collider begins to do real physics next year, it will run at

half its original design energy, with protons of 3.5 trillion electron volts. The energy will be increased gradually during the year, but it could be years, physicists say, before the machine reaches its full potential.

Thousands of the troublesome junctions will have to be rebuilt during a yearlong shutdown in 2011, and engineers have to figure out why several dozen of the superconducting magnets seem to have lost their ability to operate at high intensities.

The delay has given new life to the collider’s main rival, the Tevatron at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois.

If all goes well, CERN says, the protons will start colliding at low energies in about a week.

Those first collisions will occur at the so-called injection energy of 450 billion electron volts. The machine will then quickly step up to 1.1 trillion electron volts, which is just above the energy of the Tevatron.

CERN is hoping to achieve that landmark as a symbolic Christmas present before a short holiday shutdown.

Iran Expanding Effort To Stifle the Opposition

By Robert F. Worth

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

After last summer’s disputed presidential election, Iran’s government relied largely on brute force — beatings, arrests and show trials — to stifle the country’s embattled opposition movement.

Now, stung by the force and persistence of the protests, the government appears to be starting a far more ambitious effort to discredit its opponents and re-educate Iran’s mostly young and restive population. In recent weeks, the government has announced a variety of new ideological offensives.

It is implanting 6,000 Basij militia centers in elementary schools across Iran to promote the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and it has created a new police unit to sweep the Internet for dissident voices. A

company affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards acquired a majority share in the nation’s telecommunications monopoly this year, giving the Guards de facto control of Iran’s land-lines, Internet providers and two cell phone companies. And in the spring, the Revolutionary Guards plan to open a news agency with print, photo and television elements.

The government calls it “soft war,” and Iran’s leaders often seem to take it more seriously than a real military confrontation. It is rooted in an old accusation: that Iran’s domestic ills are the result of Western cultural subversion and call for an equally vigorous response. The extent of the new campaign underscores just how badly Iran’s clerical and military elite were shaken by the protests, which set off the worst internal dissent since the country’s

1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has been using the phrase “soft war” regularly since September, when he warned a group of artists and teachers that they were living in an “atmosphere of sedition” in which all cultural phenomena must be seen in the context of a vast battle between Iran and the West. He and other officials have since invoked the phrase in describing new efforts to re-Islamize the educational system, purge secular influences and professors, and purify the media of subversive ideas.

The new emphasis on cultural warfare may also reflect the rising influence of the Revolutionary Guards, whose leader, Mohammad Ali Jafari, has long been one of the main proponents of a “soft war” strategy, analysts say.

WEATHER

Happy Thanksgiving!

By Allison A. Wing

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Thanksgiving is just a few days away, which means that winter is on the horizon. Thanks to El Niño, the National Weather Service is predicting a warmer-than-average winter across much of the western and central US, but a cooler-than-average winter across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Also predicted is above-average precipitation across the Gulf Coast and California, but below-average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest and the Ohio River valley. Unfortunately for us here in Boston, a winter outlook is hazier because our winter climate is not as affected by El Niño. Therefore, the Climate Prediction Center is predicting an equal chance of above, near, or below normal temperature and precipitation in our region in the winter months.

Staying closer to the present, today looks to be cloudy with morning rain tapering off as the day goes on. Tomorrow will be sunnier, but cloudy conditions with a chance of rain return on Thursday with temperatures in the low to mid 50s°F. Enjoy Thanksgiving break!

Extended Forecast

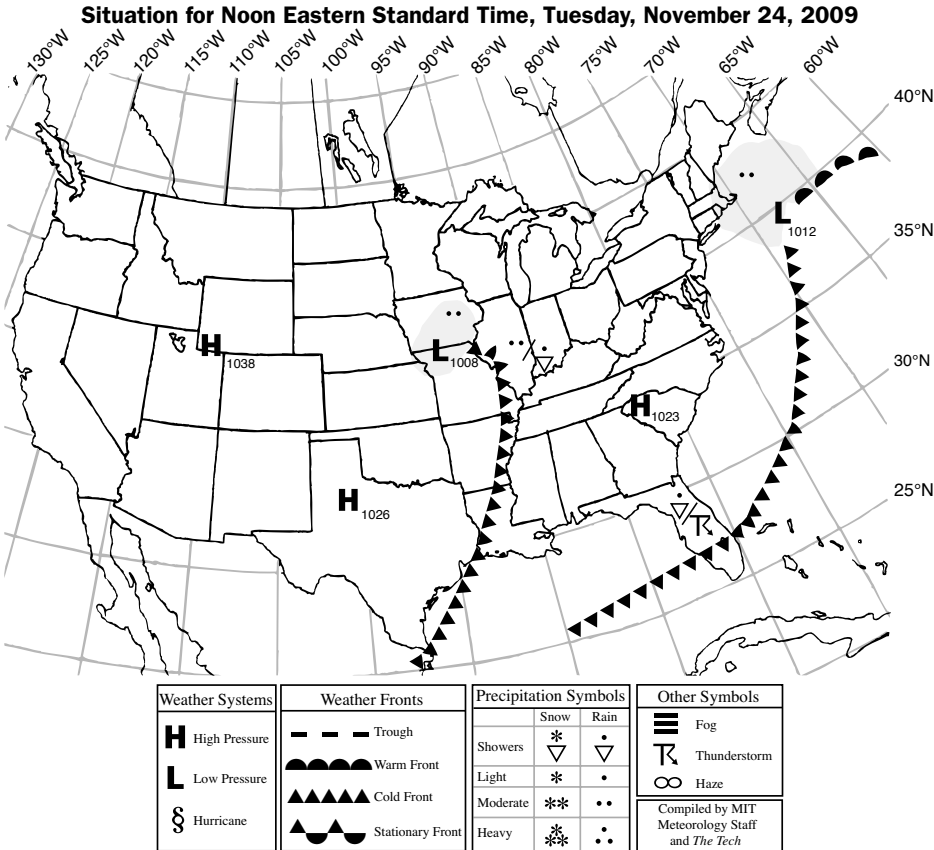
Today: Cloudy with rain likely in the morning. High of 51°F (11°C). North wind at 10–15 mph.

Tonight: Cloudy with drizzle. Low of 40°F (4°C). North wind at 8–12 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with a high of 54°F (12°C). North wind at 5–10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. High of 55°F (13°C). Winds at 5–10 mph shifting from north to southeast.

Friday: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. High of 49°F (9°C). Northeast wind at 10–15 mph.



Autistic Runaway Youth Spent 11 Days On Subway

By Kirk Semple
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK
Day after day, night after night, Francisco Hernandez Jr., 13 years old, rode the subway. He had an electronic fare card, \$10 in his pocket and a bookbag on his lap. As the human tide flowed and ebbed around him, he sat impassively, a gangly boy in glasses and a red hoodie, speaking to no one. After getting in trouble in class in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, and fearing another scolding at home, he had sought refuge in the subway system. He removed the battery from his cell phone. “I didn’t want anyone to scream at me,” he said. Francisco disappeared for 11 days in October — a stretch he spent entirely in subway stations and on trains, he says, hurtling through four boroughs. And somehow he went undetected, despite a round-the-clock search by his panicked parents, relatives and family friends, the police and the Mexican Consulate. Since Oct. 26, when a transit police officer found him in a Coney Island subway station, no one has been able to fully explain how a boy could

vanish for so long in a busy train system dotted with surveillance cameras and fliers bearing his photograph. But this was not a typical missing-person search. Francisco has Asperger’s syndrome, a form of autism that often causes difficulty with social interaction, and can lead to seemingly eccentric behavior and isolation. His parents are Mexican immigrants, who say they felt the police were slow to make the case a priority. “Maybe because you might not understand how to manage the situation, because you don’t speak English very well, because of your legal status, they don’t pay you a lot of attention,” said Francisco’s mother, Marisela Garcia, 38, a housecleaner who immigrated in 1994 and has struggled to find ways to help her son. The police, however, say they took the case seriously from the start, interviewing school officials and classmates, canvassing neighborhoods and leafletting all over the city. Francisco says his odyssey wound through three subway lines: the D, F and No. 1. He would ride a train until its last stop, then wait for the next one, wherever it was headed. He says he

subsisted on the little he could afford at subway newsstands: potato chips, croissants, jelly rolls, neatly folding the wrappers and saving them in the backpack. He drank bottled water. He used the bathroom in the Stillwell Avenue station in Coney Island. Otherwise, he says, he slipped into a kind of stupor, sleeping much of the time, his head on his bookbag. “At some point, I just stopped feeling anything,” he recalled. Though the boy’s recollections are incomplete, and neither the police nor his family can retrace his movements in detail, the authorities say that he was missing for 11 days and that they have no evidence he was anywhere but the subway. For his parents, the memories of those 11 frantic days — the dubious sightings, the dashed hopes and no sleep — remain vivid. What propelled Francisco to take flight on Oct. 15 is unclear. Administrators at his school, Intermediate School 281, would not comment. But Francisco said he had failed to complete an assignment for an eighth-grade class, and was scolded for not concentrating.

Sounds During Sleep May Aid Memory, Study Says

By Pam Belluck
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Science has never given much credence to claims that you can learn Chinese or French by having the instruction CDs play while you sleep. If any learning happens that way, most scientists say, the language lesson is probably waking the sleeper up, not causing nouns and verbs to seep into a sound-asleep mind. But a new study about a different kind of audio approach during sleep gives insight into how the sleeping brain works, and may eventually come in handy to people studying a language, cramming for a test or memorizing lines in a play. Scientists at Northwestern University reported that playing specific sounds while people slept helped them remember more of what they had learned before they fell sleep, to the point where memories of individual facts were enhanced. In a study published online Thursday by the journal *Science*, researchers taught people to move 50 pictures to their correct locations on a computer screen. Each picture was accompanied by a related sound, like

a meow for a cat and whirring for a helicopter. Then, 12 subjects took a nap, during which 25 of the sounds were played along with white noise. When they awoke, none realized that the sounds had been played or could guess which ones had been used. Yet almost all remembered more precisely the computer locations of the pictures associated with the 25 sounds that had been played while they slept, doing less well placing the other 25 pictures. “We were able to cue people to specific information they had learned,” said Ken A. Paller, a cognitive neuroscientist at Northwestern and co-author of the study. “The thinking is that during sleep, memory consolidation is going on and that rehearsal is a good way to strengthen memories. “We showed that you can get information in during sleep using the auditory system and that you can cue that rehearsal by providing sounds specific to each episode of learning.” The study adds a dimension to a theory that sleep allows the brain to process and consolidate memories.

A 2007 study found that people who were given whiffs of rose scent as they learned a task remembered the task better when they also inhaled rose scent while sleeping. But the new research suggests that individual memories can be explicitly singled out for strengthening. “We haven’t before been able to manipulate very specific memories,” said Matthew P. Walker, a neuroscientist at the University of California, Berkeley, who was not involved in the study. “If you can experimentally amplify the memory-reinforcing process by forcing those sounds back into the brain while we’re asleep,” Walker said, it “may actually give us some clues as to what that mechanism is.” Robert Stickgold, a cognitive neuroscientist at Harvard also not involved in the study, noted that the researchers did not play literal phrases recapping the memory, like “the cat is in the lower left,” but instead sound cues associated with a picture and a spatial task. The sounds made sense, too — the meow did not accompany the picture of dynamite, for example.

The Gloves Come Off At Amazon and Wal-Mart

By Brad Stone and Stephanie Rosenbloom
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ali had Frazier. Coke has Pepsi. The Yankees have the Red Sox. Now Wal-Mart, the mightiest retail giant in history, may have met its own worthy adversary: Amazon.com. In what is emerging as one of the main story lines of the 2009 post-recession shopping season, the two heavyweight retailers are waging an online price war that is spreading through product areas like books, movies, toys and electronics. The tussle began last month as a relatively trivial but highly public back-and-forth over which company had the lowest prices on the most anticipated new books and DVDs this fall. By last week, it had spread to select video game consoles, mobile phones, even to the humble Easy-Bake Oven, a 45-year-old toy from Hasbro that usually heats up small cakes, not tensions between billion-dollar corporations. Last Wednesday, Wal-Mart dropped the price of the oven to \$17,

from \$28, as part of its “Black Friday” deals. Later the same day, Amazon cut its price, which had also been \$28, to \$18. “It’s not about the prices of books and movies anymore; there is a bigger battle being fought,” said Fiona Dias, executive vice president at GSI Commerce, which manages the Web sites of large retailers. “The price sniping by Wal-Mart is part of a greater strategic plan. They are just not going to cede their business to Amazon.” Retailers are already fighting for every dollar consumers spend this holiday season. Sales are not expected to drop as much as they did last season, but the National Retail Federation, an industry group, predicts that they will decline 1 percent, to \$437.6 billion. Of course, Wal-Mart and Amazon are fundamentally different companies, and for now, at least, Amazon poses little immediate threat to the behemoth from Bentonville, Ark. Wal-Mart, with \$405 billion in sales last year, dominates by offering affordable prices to Middle

America in its 4,000 stores. Amazon is a relative schooner to Wal-Mart’s ocean liner, with \$20 billion in sales, mostly from affluent urbanites who would rather click with their mouse than push around a cart. This fight, then, is all about the future. Rapid expansion by each company, as well as profound shifts in the high-tech landscape, now make direct confrontation inevitable. Though online shopping accounts for only around 4 percent of retail sales, that percentage is growing quickly. E-commerce did not suffer as deeply as regular retailing during the economic malaise, and it is recovering faster than in-store shopping. People are also shopping on smartphones and from their HDTVs. Amazon, based in Seattle, has harnessed all of these trends, and is also behaving more like a traditional retailer. This fall it expanded its white-labeling program, slapping the Amazon brand onto audio and video cables and other products, and introduced same-day shipping in seven cities, trying to replicate the instant gratification of offline shopping.

Start Date Is Critical in Madoff Scheme

By Diana B. Henriques
THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK

Bernard Madoff’s enormous Ponzi scheme ended on Dec. 11, 2008, when he was arrested at his Manhattan penthouse. But for some early victims, the date his crime started could matter much more than when it stopped. A motion pending in federal bankruptcy court in Manhattan contends that Madoff’s long-term investors cannot accurately calculate their losses until they know whether any of their original profits were legitimate. And to determine that, the motion continues, they must know when the Ponzi scheme began. The Madoff bankruptcy trustee is calculating investor losses as the difference between the cash paid into an account and the cash taken out. But if some of an investor’s early profits were in fact legitimate, those earnings should count as part of the cash paid into the Ponzi scheme, the motion argues.

Officials Shift Flu Vaccine To the Elderly

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal health officials are trying to shift supplies of the seasonal flu vaccine away from chain pharmacies and supermarkets to nursing homes, hoping to counter a shortage that threatens to cause a wave of deaths among the nation’s most vulnerable population. The extent of the shortage is still unclear, but Janice Zalen, director of special programs for the American Health Care Association, which represents 11,000 nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, called it “a very big problem.” She said that of 1,000 nursing home managers who responded to a survey, 800 reported they could not get enough vaccine. A nationwide shortage of the seasonal flu vaccine has been reported for several weeks, but nursing homes and their suppliers have grown more alarmed in recent days. Of the 36,000 Americans who die of seasonal flu in the average year, more than 90 percent are 65 or older. By contrast, swine flu has been most deadly among younger people.

Slow Month for Retailers, But Strong Finish Is Seen

By Stephanie Rosenbloom
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A few weeks into the holiday shopping season, American consumers are still not reaching for their wallets. After a fairly robust October, retail sales slowed in November as the nation’s stores entered their critical time of year. Major sectors like apparel, luxury goods and jewelry experienced slight sales declines. That might seem like an ominous sign about how the chains will fare this Christmas. But retailing analysts said the declines were minor and that many consumers were saving their powder for the day after Thanksgiving, the blowout shopping day known as Black Friday. Retailing veterans expect stores to be bustling on Friday as frugal consumers hunt for bargains with newfound purpose. Retailing professionals are also cheered that stores have less inventory today than they did this time last year. “Last year, we were in emergency nuclear discounting mode,” said Michael McNamara, vice president for research and analysis at SpendingPulse, an information service by MasterCard Advisors. “This year, it’s more strategic in nature.” For Nov. 1 to 14, sales of women’s clothing declined 3.3 percent and sales of men’s clothing fell 1 percent compared with last year, according to SpendingPulse, which estimates sales for all forms of payment, including cash, checks and credit cards. Luxury goods posted the biggest year-over-year decline, falling 9.2 percent. Those declines were not as bad, though, as the double-digit losses that stores experienced last year and into early 2009. Last year, sales over Thanksgiving weekend declined 1.01 percent from the same period a year earlier, according to SpendingPulse. That was a departure from previous years, when sales rose briskly — up 4.5 percent in 2007, up 6.1 percent in 2006 and up 5.7 percent in 2005.

Oprah’s Departure Leaves a Wide Range of Possibilities

By Brian Stelter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

There is no single replacement for Oprah Winfrey. That’s not necessarily a statement about the dominance of her 24-year-old television institution, “The Oprah Winfrey Show.” Rather, it is the reality of television syndication. When Winfrey leaves the broadcast airwaves in two years, a stable of talk shows will vie to fill her former time slot on more than 200 stations across the country. Individual stations are bound to place differing bets, drastically reshaping the daytime TV landscape. As with NBC and Jay Leno earlier this year, the television chess board is being rearranged by a talk show host. Winfrey’s departure could even affect the ratings for the network evening newscasts. “All of a sudden, there are so many moving pieces,” said Bill Carroll, who recommends syndicated shows to stations for the Katz Television Group, on Friday. Even before Winfrey announced last Friday that 2011 would be, as she put it, the “exact right time” to step off her broadcast stage, TV executives were jostling on behalf of Ellen DeGeneres, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Dr. Phil McGraw and other hosts who aim to benefit from the syndication shake-up. Analysts say that DeGeneres and Dr. Oz, in particular, stand to gain, because their deals with stations will come up for renewal at the same time that Winfrey intends to depart. Aspiring hosts could emerge as well. “I’m sure there are a number of people calling their agents today and saying, ‘I think I could be the next Oprah.’” Carroll said. No matter what, it seems, Winfrey comes out a winner in syndication. Already, she has groomed another decade’s worth of new talk show hosts. She ordained McGraw in 2002, and his talk show, “Dr. Phil,” now ranks second behind her own hour. She followed up with “Rachael Ray” in 2006 and “The Dr. Oz Show” this fall. “Dr. Oz” is already a hit.

OPINION



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Dining Reform Set to Repeat History

Dining at MIT has a long and contentious history of student distaste and quarrels with administrators. In lieu of these past protests, what's surprising now is just how little discussion is occurring over current proposals.

Editorial

Riots at Baker Dining in 1957 and songs from East Campus in the sixties lampooning Stouffers and the dorm's then lack of kitchens brought us to last semester, when protests in Lobby 7 and emergency Undergraduate Association meetings followed the leak of the Blue Ribbon Dining Report, the latest in a long line of proposals for changing how MIT students dine. However, since the May release of reports by the Blue Ribbon Institute Committee and student-led Dining Proposal Committee, debate has been contained within the myopic Institute-wide Planning Task Force, which after numerous delays now promises to have its Final Report out before fall term classes end — well over a month behind schedule and suspiciously close to the time when most students leave for Christmas break.

Why the delay for the Task Force? Information and knowledge here is remarkably scarce, and Task Force members failed to return requests for comment. Given the current MIT administration's past laxness with releasing information though, it is likely that key administrators already have a very solid idea about what the final Task Force report will say. MIT would do well to avoid a repeat of the Blue Ribbon Preliminary Report dustup from last year and release any information on dining as soon as it is finalized, regardless of whether that occurs before the release of the Final Task Force Report as a whole.

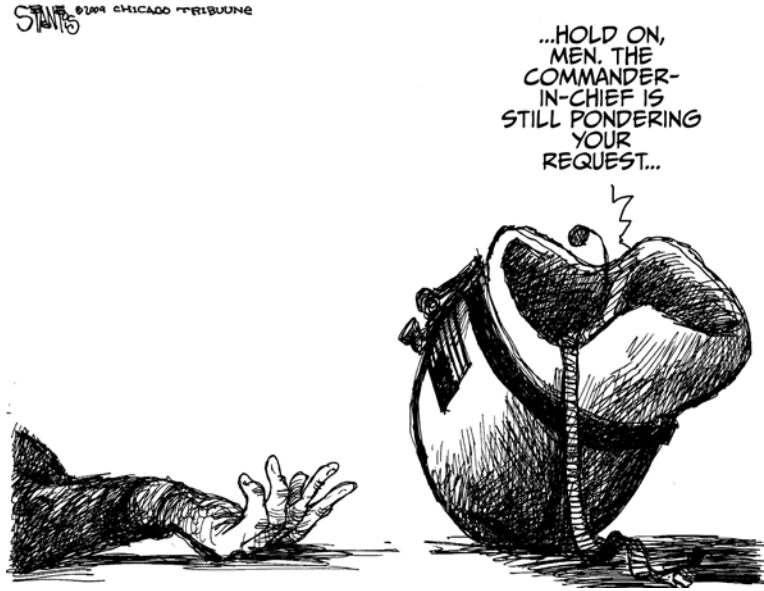
While all of this confirms Dean of Student Life Chris Colombo's statement last month that there would be no changes to house dining for 2009, plans to implement changes to dining for fall 2010 are still very much alive, despite the Task Force delays.

Timing becomes the issue to watch in this case; in order to make changes for the 2010–2011 academic year, MIT will need to have house dining and dining-related financial aid completely sorted out in time for the release of regular action admissions decisions for the Class of 2014. In other words, there is a hard March deadline that effectively limits time for open, campus-wide debate to IAP and the first weeks of spring term.

That is an unacceptably short time to amend or alter any large failings in the Task Force's final proposals on dining, especially considering the number of other potentially controversial proposals that will drop at the same time. While there is certainly a need to expediently change a system that loses \$500,000 per year, dining is a student life issue that cannot be given forced deadlines. Unfortunately, since the chartering of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining two years ago, word from key administrators has shifted from trying to find the best, long-term solution to dining at MIT to trying to find a way to patch the current system and cut costs now.

Students recently got a taste for what the latter approach may portend for the Task Force recommendations from the postponement of house breakfast programs. Originally intended to open as a pilot this term, budget constraints in Campus Dining were cited as the reason for delaying the program until fall of next year. If the Task Force adopts a similar attitude, look for cuts to services and cost increases without any major new initiatives or programs to serve as replacements.

MIT administrators seem to once again be setting themselves up for a student backlash on dining. While some disagreement between student and faculty goals is to be expected, the lack of an explanation for both the Task Force delays and the criteria currently being used to shape the future of dining is troubling. If MIT's history on dining is any indication, the final Task Force Report, whenever it is released, will not be received lightly.



Corrections

An opinion piece last Friday by Alexi Goranov titled “Capitalism and Functioning Democracy Are at Odds” incorrectly stated “A study by IMS Health estimated that the new healthcare bill will bring the drug industry an increase in sales by \$137 billion over the next four years.” In a letter to *The Tech*, Gary J. Gatyas, Jr., a communications director at IMS Health, wrote that the \$137 billion increase from the April to the October 2009 forecasts is not all attributable to current healthcare reforms. Goranov cited a November 12, 2009 piece from “Democracy Now!” that, according to IMS Health, misinterpreted the organization’s report. According to Gatyas, “The direct impact of current U.S. healthcare reform measures embedded in the IMS forecast is less than one percent of projected total industry sales through 2013.”

For the past four years, *The Tech* has chronically misidentified Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80 as a member of the undergraduate class of 1978. Hastings received a master's degree in 1978 and a PhD in 1980; *Tech* style calls for him to be referred to by his highest graduate degree, “PhD '80,” but this has happened only inconsistently.

Articles carried the error on Dec. 2, 2005 and Dec. 6, 2005. There was a three-year pause. But then an Oct. 24, 2008 article used the wrong year. A photo caption on Nov. 4, 2008 repeated the error, which persisted in columns, articles, and a letter to the editor variously published on Feb. 17, 2009, April 18, 2009, May 12, 2009, Sept. 8, 2009, Oct. 2, 2009, Oct. 9, 2009, Oct. 24, 2008, Feb. 24, 2009, Oct. 6, 2009, Oct. 23, 2009, and Nov. 3, 2009.

The dean was correctly identified as “PhD '80” as recently as March 6, 2009.

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Questioning Capitalism

Capitalism May Have Flaws, But Socialism Is Not the Answer

Charles Barr

Why does anyone still question capitalism as the basic engine for economic growth? From what used to be the Soviet Union to China, capitalism has gained recognition as the best way to achieve broad-based economic success. However, individuals like Alexi Goranov, who wrote an article for the November 20 issue of *The Tech* (“Capitalism and Functioning Democracy Are At Odds”), believe that capitalism is inherently flawed. This is ignorance.

Capitalism has flaws, but these are flaws in implementation and are not inherent to the concept. Everyone must recognize this. There is a tendency, in times of financial turmoil, to declare the end of capitalism. It is a post hoc ergo propter hoc argument: Because the crisis occurred in capitalist countries, capitalism must have caused the crisis. Of course, the financial crisis and subsequent recession demonstrate that something went wrong. Too much greed, a lack of transparency in financial markets and the housing bubble all played some role in the collapse. Exactly what went wrong is up for debate, but a recession certainly does

not prove the failure of capitalism. It merely needs a tune-up.

The climate is ripe for opponents of capitalism to take aim. Preying on economic fears, opponents make seemingly reasonable arguments against capitalism. These arguments are only reasonable because of the economic climate. Suggestions for less capitalism rest upon an assumption that the solutions are better than the problem.

Goranov’s argument is based on logical fallacies and misrepresentations from the beginning. He defines the right to equality as “the right to equal access to labor and life.” He assumes that these principles do not exist in a capitalist society. Equality of opportunity defines a capitalist society. Likewise, there is no logical reason why the right to life cannot exist in a capitalist society. The United States Declaration of Independence cites “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” among inalienable rights. The biggest violators of the right to life

have not been capitalist countries, but communist countries!

Capitalism works. Opponents of capitalism can bring up examples of when alternative economic structures have worked, but these are trivial cases. Goranov cites small-scale collectives in areas near Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War as examples of the success of collectivization while ignoring the biggest examples of collectivization. The large-scale examples, the examples that matter, are of colossal failure. Collectivization in the Soviet Union led to bread lines and economic collapse. Mao’s Great Leap Forward led to widespread famine.

Compare that to the United States. Although we have poverty, it has never neared the scale of any largely collectivized economy.

Goranov could make an effective case for changing capitalism. His evidence of corporate bullying, using the example of the pharmaceutical industry, provides a compelling reason to

try and address that problem. However, it is not the case for communism, collectivization, or socialism. It is the case for fixing capitalism’s flaws.

Fixing capitalism might involve some level of greater government intervention in the economy. Ensuring transparency in financial markets, regulating the shadow banking system and reorganizing effectively nationalized financial institutions are all options to help repair capitalism in the United States. While some may label these measures socialist, they unquestionably leave the market-driven economy largely intact. The implications of Mr. Goranov’s article are too extreme. The United States can adjust its economy without overturning it.

There is a reason why the United States is the sole economic superpower in the world. Free markets have allowed America to become enormously prosperous. Some segments of society have benefitted more from this prosperity than others. To fix this, we can tailor economic policy to benefit society as a whole, but we must never take away economic freedom.

Charles B. Barr is a member of the Class of 2013.

The biggest violators of the right to life have not been capitalist countries, but communist countries!

Copenhagen Needs Obama

Erasmus K. zu Ermgassen

On December 7, world leaders will descend on Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to determine the future of planet Earth. Or at least they should. So far only 65 national leaders have actually committed to attending the talks. Notable absentees include president Hu Jintao of China and Barack Obama. These politicians, by waiting until the last moment to commit to attending the conference, hope to be portrayed in the media as the saviors of the planet, as the deal clinchers for a sustainable future. Unfortunately, they will be disappointed. Not only will the world not be saved in Copenhagen, because there will not be a treaty to sign, but also there is only one man who can truly salvage the process and play the hero: Barack Obama.

The number of Americans who believe that anthropogenic global warming is occurring has fallen to almost a third. The majority simply do not think it’s that big a problem. This surge in skepticism is the result of public fatigue with the threat of climate change (it’s difficult to understand, the messages we receive are contradictory, and its effects seem far away) and also because of the recession. Climate change isn’t quite as scary as unemployment.

But the scientific consensus hasn’t changed — only public opinion. Yes, we have been in a short period of global cooling, but I’d be more

suspicious if the temperature changes were linear: Climate is sufficiently stochastic to make variation expected and so what matters is the trend, not the fluctuation. Which means climate change is just as serious a problem as it was in 2006, when 77 percent of Americans believed global warming was occurring. Despite the slump in public support, climate change requires international attention more than ever.

To limit the global temperature rise to 2°C (36°F), we need to cut emissions by 50 percent before 2050. Should the average global temperature rise exceed 2°C, the game may be up and we will truly be at the mercy of an increasingly inhospitable climate. To reduce exposing ourselves to this climate risk, we have to try both adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation involves developed countries paying \$100 billion into the so-called “Mexico fund.” This money will be spent in developing countries to help cope with climate change (80 percent of the impacts of climate change will be felt in the developing world). Mitigation, on the other hand, requires both an 80 percent cut of emissions from developed nations and a 25 percent cut by the industrializing countries.

The need for international cooperation is revealed by the rise of China. Although 77 per-

cent of anthropogenic greenhouse gases have in the past been from the developed world countries, China is now the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitter, and under business-as-usual China would emit as much greenhouse gases in the next 40 years as the U.S. has done since the industrial revolution. So, to prevent climate change, Obama needs to get the Chinese on board. The question is: How?

Above all, any climate treaty will depend on international trust. The Chinese are concerned about environmental issues: spending on their “Green New Deal” reached \$221 billion (compared to the paltry \$23 billion spent by the E.U., and \$112 billion spent by the U.S.), but they will not commit to further reductions in carbon dioxide emissions if they do not think that the U.S. and other developed countries will stick to their side of the bargain. And they have every reason to be suspicious.

Although the E.U. has instituted a carbon-trading scheme and reduced its carbon emissions in line with the Kyoto Treaty, the U.S. lags behind other developed nations in its environmental efforts. The United States signed, but never congressionally ratified Kytoto and instead of the 7 percent reduction of carbon emissions intended, the U.S. has since then in-

To prevent climate change, Obama needs to get the Chinese on board. The question is: How?

creased its emissions by 16.8 percent. Similarly, healthcare reform currently dominates the political agenda, delaying the establishment of a carbon-trading market. The Chinese see this, and rightly ask whether it is believable that the US will actually be able to cut their emissions by the required amount.

For the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference to be a success, as part of a “one treaty, two steps” approach, requires the following: there must be agreement on domestic policies for reducing emissions in the developing world, the creation of the “Mexico fund” to pay for adaptation in the developing world, true emissions reduction targets for the developed nations, the creation of a body to assess whether countries are making sufficient efforts to meet their targets, and finally, a roadmap for the signing of a treaty in 2010. For any of these goals to materialize, President Obama must turn up in Copenhagen to reassure the Chinese that the U.S. is ready to take a lead on an issue they have long shirked responsibility over. Obama must also announce America’s short-term emission reduction targets, say 25 percent by 2020, to prove that the U.S. is ready to act now, and not at some point in the indefinite future. If Obama doesn’t take Copenhagen seriously, we will all be left to face the disastrous consequences of climate change.

Erasmus K. zu Ermgassen is an exchange student from the University of Cambridge in the Cambridge-MIT Exchange program.

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ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

A Cataclysmic Production Devoid of Emotion

The Best End-of-the-World Movie Yet

By Bogdan Fedeles
STAFF WRITER

2012
Director: Roland Emmerich
Starring John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Thandie Newton
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

It is the year 2012. The end of the world as we know is fast approaching. Due to a rare planetary alignment, an unprecedented solar flare is heating up the Earth's core to the point that the crust will destabilize. The ensuing seismic and volcanic activity followed by gigantic tsunamis are bound to wipe out all life from Earth. There is no way to stop the cataclysm. But there may be a way to weather it out. Or is there?

Roland Emmerich's latest blockbuster is an apocalyptic movie in the vein of his other well-known productions, like *Independence Day* and *The Day After Tomorrow*. Long, yet tenuous, *2012* offers front seats to one of the most incredible disasters depicted on screen. The computer graphics and the amazing cinematography blend seamlessly and are likely to captivate even the sternest audiences. Few movies have come close to depicting, in such brilliant colors and bold camera angles, the fury of nature unleashed. Human civilization and all of natural life are brought to their knees and then utterly destroyed in a glorious spectacle that is more awe-inspiring than horrifying.

Unfortunately, when compared to such outstanding graphic depiction of the disaster, mankind's desperate struggle for survival appears secondary. Indeed, there is a plot where characters we are supposed to identify with are scrambling away and coming up with Biblical plans (ha! that almost gives it away, right?). However, the plotline never quite unfolds. The disaster is too neutral and perfect to contend with. On the one hand, there is no real villain. In *Independence Day*, there were the aliens. In *The Day After Tomorrow*, mankind itself, especially highly developed countries were being pointed at for causing the climate changes that led to the disaster.

However, in *2012* there is no one at fault. The planetary disaster just happens — impartial and immovable like the laws of physics. In addition, the choice of protagonists doesn't contribute to delivering the plot. While they realistically depict our society with all its rotten pragmatism and whimsical squabbles, they fail



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES PUBLICITY

Jackson Curtis (John Cusack) flees in *2012*.

to convey the reasons for which they should be alive by the end of the movie. There is barely any love, any emotion.

Unlike other disaster movies, such as *Armageddon* or even *Titanic*, which are heavily drenched in sentimentalism to keep the audiences engaged (the feeble hearted ones, at least), *2012* maintains a rather distant emotional perspective. Although it surely sets a record for the casualty count, *2012* fails to make us empathize with it. Most dying people feel serene, almost happy to be done with. Those who do fight, have usually so little screen time that we barely acknowledge them. I wonder if Emmerich tried to make a point in not indulging

in any sappiness or simply failed at it. In all its glorious 2 hours and 45 minutes, *2012* can barely squeeze a few tears, with some of the very few incongruous and awkwardly placed romantic scenes.

Despite the shortcomings of the script, the cast does a decent job in bringing to their (often short) life the characters of the movie. John Cusack's portrayal of the aloof writer caring for his divorced wife and children is quite believable. Amanda Peet in the role of the divorced wife is less impressive. An exciting performance by Chiwetel Ejiofor as one of the scientists that predicts the disaster will surely give all scientists and especially geologists a field day. But then

again, all disaster movies do. Other notable presences are Thandie Newton and Danny Glover, but their screen time is disappointingly short.

Despite its cataclysmic premise, *2012* develops some internal humor. Some of the funny overtones are cleverly woven in, playing especially on social and ethnic stereotypes. Other funny moments are probably unintentional, derived from the unlikely heroics of the protagonists. However, these light-hearted moments will most likely play the biggest role in keeping you entertained to the end. Despite failing to be a masterpiece, *2012* is nevertheless the ultimate apocalypse movie and may be worth a Blockbuster rental.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

'Precious' Will Leave You Speechless

As Oprah Put It, the Film 'Split [Her] Open.'

By Emily Nardoni
STAFF WRITER

Precious
Directed by Lee Daniels
Based on the novel Push by Sapphire
Starring Gabourey Sidibe, Mariah Carey, Paula Patton
Rated R
Now Playing

Emotionally, physically, and sexually abused by both her mother and father, Clareece "Precious" Jones is born into a life that no one would ever want to be born into. As the terribly child-like and misspelled opening credits scrawl across the screen, it's difficult not to gasp at the horror of her illiteracy. "Who let this happen?" you ask. "Who could possibly be so heartless?"

If you haven't heard of *Precious*, a Lee Daniels' film based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire, then you should check it out. It was in the Official Selection at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival, won three awards at Sundance, and won the Audience Award at the Toronto Film Festival. As Oprah Winfrey put it, the film "split [her] open." And I have to say, I mostly agree.

Precious (played by new actress Gabourey Sidibe) is a sixteen-year-old African American girl who managed to make it to the 9th grade without the ability to read or write beyond her own name. She is morbidly obese and seemingly apathetic towards life. But as we soon see, the characters in this film are shaped by circumstance and abuse. At home in Harlem, Precious is subject to both physical and verbal violence by her mother Mary (Mo'Nique).



COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

Precious, played by Gabourey Sidibe, holds her own on the streets of Harlem.

Mary is lazy and cruel, living off welfare and forcing her daughter to wait on her hand and foot. The only time Precious ever sees her father is when he rapes her — resulting in two children by the age of seventeen. Her mother blames her for the rape, calling her worthless and stupid.

At school, *Precious* is a case that the education system just passes by. She sits at the back, doesn't speak, and doesn't let on how poor her reading capabilities really are. When offered

the chance to transfer to an alternative school, Each One/Teach One, Precious seizes the opportunity, despite her mother's rants that she's too dumb for school and ought to just go on "the welfare."

What's so likable about Precious as a character is her resilience. She dreams of being famous and loved, perks up when she talks about math, her favorite subject, and puts on makeup to go to school. Her childish hopes stand in the face of everyone that pushes

her down, though she only lets her real self through to her caring and patient teacher, Ms. Rain (Paula Patton).

The acting in *Precious* is phenomenal. Precious gives a stunning performance in a difficult part, subtly revealing her character's vibrant interior through the shell of indifference that she shows the world. Mo'Nique, as Mary, is show-stopping as a hateful, ruthless woman who herself has suffered at the hands of her husband; her performance is Oscar-worthy. Patton (Ms. Rain) is absolutely beautiful, both in her passion as a teacher and in her genuine love for Precious, while social worker Mrs. Weiss — played excellently by Mariah Carey — is realistically tough yet gentle-hearted. If you see this movie for nothing else, appreciate these actors' efforts to bring this heart-breaking story to life on the screen.

Though I admire this film on many levels, I have to admit that the overall effect is not as powerful as I would've expected. Precious' accomplishments seem somewhat glossed over, and even by the end of the film her hopes appear frustratingly futile against the obstacles still in her life. I left the theater more depressed than anything. On the one hand, I respect the rawness with which the filmmakers laid out her life, but on the other, I feel the film failed to reach the audience as profoundly as it could have.

This is one of those films that will impact every viewer in a different way. While I thought that overall the film fell short of its potential, I can't overlook the marked honesty in its presentation. My best advice is to brace yourself, go to the theater, and judge *Precious* for yourself.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★½

Werewolves, Vampires, and Love Triangles, Oh My!

Lautner Brings Depth to Jacob Black, But Film Ultimately Caters to Fangirls

By Maggie Liu
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR
Twilight: New Moon
Directed by Chris Weitz
Screenplay by Melissa Rosenberg, based off
Stephanie Meyer's original novel
Starring Kristen Stewart, Taylor Lautner, and
Robert Pattinson
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

The Twilight scene is a cult. This is a fact. Granted, about 95 percent of the cult is female, so perhaps a “far-reaching fan-base” would be a more appropriate description. According to my friend, who did a headcount, out of the 196 viewers in my theater, there were only 12 male audience members. You need to be in a particular mood to watch any of the Twilight movies. You need to be able to laugh about cheesy lines, somewhat bad acting, and have the capacity to withstand at least five girls around you ogle shamelessly at topless actors. When I dragged a few of my friends to the *New Moon* premiere, I justified to myself that I was only attending the premiere to relieve a week of stress by tapping into my inner teenybopper. What I didn’t expect to do was squeal along with the legions of other college girls. The bulk of the book is devoted to Bella coping with the absence of Edward (and really, it’s probably harder for the fervent fangirls to cope with his absence), and she is able to slowly recuperate through the aid of Jacob Black, her younger Quileute Indian friend. While most fans of the book series regard *New Moon* as one of the worst in the quartet because the brooding lead male is missing for roughly 400 pages, the film is able to convert more than a few passionate Team Edward fans to Team Jacob fans. Knowing the lukewarm appreciation of fans for the second book, the director tried a little too hard to draw the audience in. While Edward was all enigma, post-cordially rumpled hair



COURTESY OF SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

Jacob’s soulful brown eyes mend Bella’s heart in Edward’s absence.

and lascivious gazes in the first film, the gaunt-faced immortal only appears in the beginning and ending twenty minutes of *New Moon*. While many fans of the pasty-faced vampire may wail, fear not. If you are nondiscriminatory in your appreciation for good-looking boys, do not turn away so quickly. Taylor Lautner was able to reprise the role of Jacob only after

he promised to work out extensively because the director believed that he wasn’t “strong-looking enough” for *New Moon*. Jacob Black is supposedly the pillar of both emotional and physical support for Bella when an incident causes Edward to depart. Lautner has bulked up for the role, resulting in perfectly toned abs and alarming biceps — a sight that the director never fails to capitalize on. The predicted shift in numbers from Team Edward to Team Jacob lies in the sheer contrast of the characters as portrayed on screen. While in the book Jacob can be relegated to being the cute but obnoxious younger boy who follows you around like a lost puppy, Taylor Lautner is able to bring to Jacob a depth that was never fully explored in the book. Because Stephanie Meyer’s quartet always returned to the epic love story between Bella and Edward, no matter how adoring or toned Bella’s admirer Jacob is, he never stood a chance against Bella’s steadfast devotion to Edward. In the film rendition of *New Moon*, Jacob gives Edward a run for his money. Whereas Edward’s brief scenes comprise of only furrowed eyebrows, anguished pursed lips and sighs of a Shakespearean Hamlet, Jacob is a completely different story. With the generous amount of screen time allocated to Lautner, he is able to

ensnare the audience with his portrayal of Jacob Black. Warm, sincere, and struck with an innocent love for Bella, Jacob has the capacity to wrench hearts with his soulful brown eyes. The fact that the boy also possesses a pinup-worthy body doesn’t hurt either. Lautner’s performance allows me to believe that he is a promising young actor and *New Moon* has only pushed him into the realm of celebrity-dom faster. While Edward’s departure from Bella is a bit rushed, I think the director should be condemned more for his amateur transitions. To show the passage of time in Edward’s absence, Bella is huddled in front of her bedroom window overlaid with floating text of the month. The CGI is terrible, action scenes are all slowed down to the point of being ridiculously contrived, and the cinematography is mediocre at best. I can understand the poor action scenes — we all know that *Twilight* isn’t exactly the *Matrix* series. However, since it is not, stop trying to emulate action films. It only cheapens those parts more and underscores the directors’ negligence for the fighting scenes. Ultimately, *New Moon* is able to pull through. Little moments throughout the film make it so much more enjoyable. For instance, Dakota Fanning has a brief cameo. With her sleekly swept chignon and charcoal-darkened eyes, Fanning leaves a lasting impression despite her sparse screen time. Also be sure to brace yourself for the scenes where Jacob unceremoniously takes off his shirt. The loud squeals will remind you again that you are watching a B-rated film with the likes of teenyboppers (in both mind and age).



COURTESY OF SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

Bella (Kristen Stewart) and Edward (Robert Pattinson) share an intimate moment.

CONCERT REVIEW

BSO Presents Saint-Saëns and Stravinsky

Lise de la Salle Impresses, But ‘Petrushka’ Disappoints

By Tina Ro
STAFF WRITER
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Fabio Luisi, featuring Pianist
Lise de la Salle
November 14, 2009

An anxious group exited the Symphony T stop at the Green Line, bee lining to the greeters at the door of Symphony Hall. Exactly at 8:03 p.m., the symphony finished tuning and welcomed the rushed audience with a sweet poem: “Pastorale d’été,” a symphonic poem by Arthur Honegger. Honegger’s style in “Pastorale d’été,” generally associated with the 1920s avant-garde, contrasts with his peers’ — coined the “Groupe des Six” — in that Honegger believed that the new era of music resulted from transitioning from the traditional, as opposed to cleanly breaking away. He embraced the value in balance and virtue, which is exhibited in “Pastorale d’été.” One flute, an oboe, a clarinet, a bassoon, a horn, and strings create

a lyrical song of a pleasant summer day in the fields. The melodious “Pastorale d’été” prepared the audience for the true treat of the evening: 21-year-old French piano soloist Lise de la Salle. De la Salle has toured extensively — including performances in Paris, London, the Lucerne Festival Piano Series, Stuttgart, Copenhagen, Luxemburg, Munich, and Berlin. Furthermore, two of her recordings have been awarded Gramophone’s “Recording of the Month.” She has also been featured in *Vanity Fair Germany*. De la Salle began playing the piano at age 4 and at age 13, made her debut in Avignon and Paris. She then began her impressive career at that age by touring with the Orchestre National d’Île de France. More information on de la Salle is available at

www.lisedelasalle.com. She performed Saint-Saëns’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Opus 22 — a significant performance; Saint-Saëns’s final performance of the piece in 1906 was also with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Paralleling Saint-Saëns’s mastery of technique, de la Salle impressed the audience with the deft and lucid finger work that the piece required. All three movements of the piece, although each colored by their own tone, calls for intense focus and concentration. The final Presto movement required constant movement up and down the keyboard. In contrast to the somewhat playful air of Saint-Saëns’s piano concerto, the lasting impression left by the quality of Lise de la Salle’s performance and talent characterized the evening. After her

performance, the audience’s applause forced de la Salle to return to the stage three separate times. Every time, la Salle humbly accepted the praise. The second half of the evening was less remarkable. The full symphony performed “Petrushka,” by Igor Stravinsky. The piece seemed incomplete; the scenery, dancers, and sets were missed for this ballet score. The audience was at best mildly enthusiastic towards the performance. The Boston Symphony Orchestra continues its 2009–2010 season with a performance featuring Sir James Galway, the Women of the Tanglewood Festival Choir, and John Oliver as the conductor. This performance will take place November 19–21. Other artists for this season include Joshua Bell, Yo-Yo Ma, and Frank Peter Zimmerman. For interested students, there is also an open rehearsal, usually on the Wednesday evening before the performances, with reduced priced tickets. View the Boston Symphony Orchestra website — bso.org — for more information.

The melodious ‘Pastorale d’été’ prepared the audience for the true treat of the evening: 21-year-old French piano soloist Lise de la Salle.

Student Groups Take the Stage Over the Weekend



ARNA ALAMI—THE TECH

THE TECH



YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH

YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH



JASMINE FLORENTINE—THE TECH

JASMINE FLORENTINE—THE TECH



CORIN KLOBER—THE TECH

VINCENT MOYEUNG—THE TECH

VINCENT MOYEUNG—THE TECH

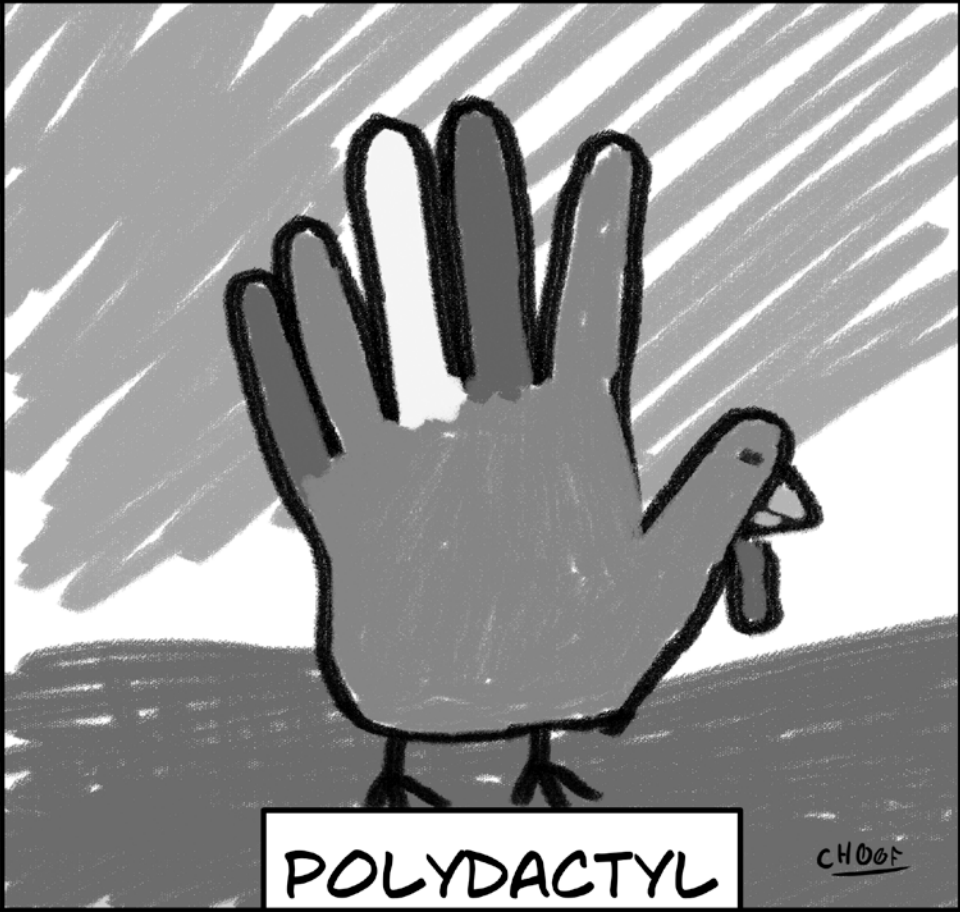
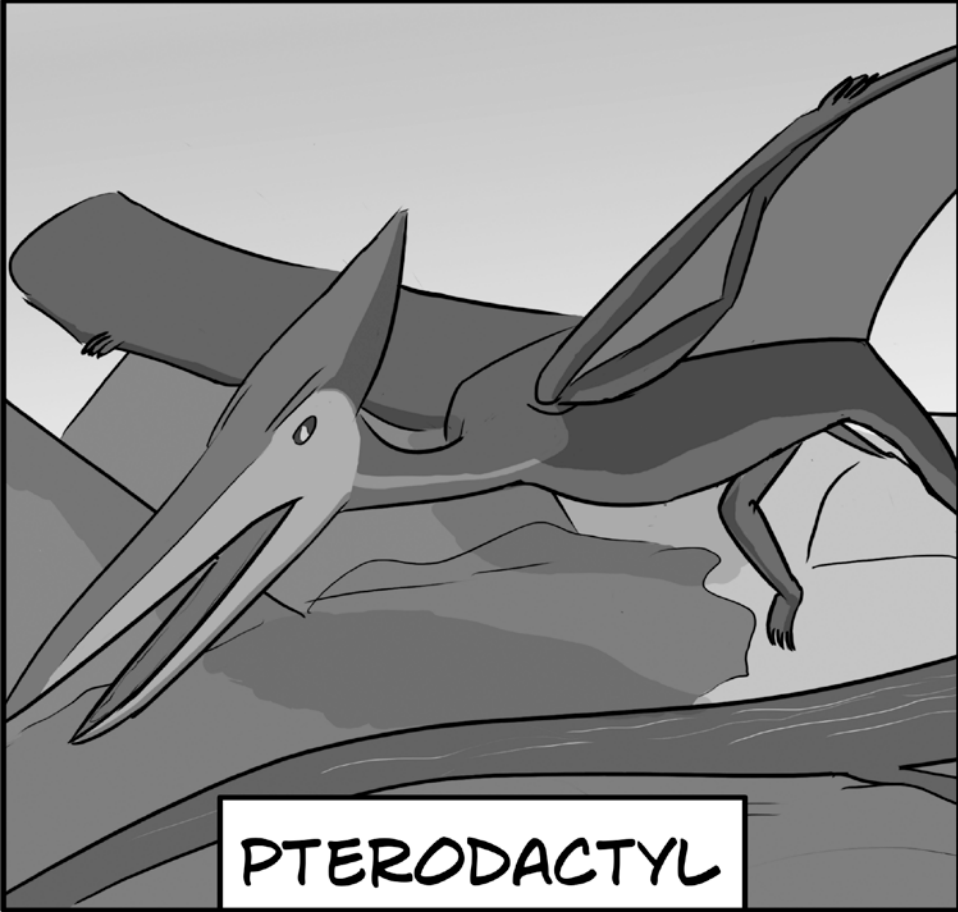


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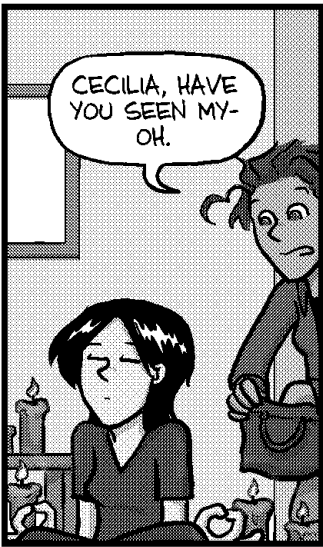
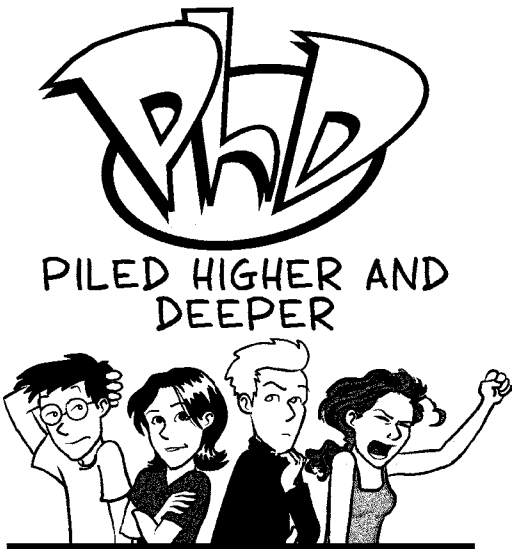
1. Jenn Viaud, YJ Kim, and Kunle Oladehin perform a funk piece during the Ring the Alarm Dance Competition. The competition was hosted by MIT's Mocha Moves and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity on Friday, November 20 and featured a wide variety of dance groups, including BU Vibe, BU Edge, MIT Chamak, and Essence.
2. MIT's Ridonkulous performs in Lobdell Court at Ring the Alarm Dance Competition. Ridonkulous came in second place.
3. Hannah S. Israel '12 and Christian Segura '11 share a duet in "Harbor" by Vienna Teng at the Chorallaries' Fall Concert on Saturday, November 21 in 10-250.
4. Douglas I. Friedman performs "Big Machine" by The Goo Goo Dolls with Brandeis VoiceMale, a guest group, at the Chorallaries' Fall Concert.
5. Jason S. Ku G sings "Nina" by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi during the Chamber Chorus concert on Friday, November 20.
6. Nozomi Ando leads the song "O del mio dolce ar-dor" by Christoph Willibald von Gluck in the Chamber Chorus concert on Saturday, November 21.
7. Vivian A. Lee '12 performs a Chinese ribbon dance during the Korean Students Association's culture show on Friday, November 20 in Walker Memorial.
8. Alvin S. Chen '11 flies over his teammates to kick a board during a demonstration by the MIT Sport Tae Kwon Do team. The team performed for the Korean Students Association's culture show.
9. Melissa K. Ireland G and Patrick H. Yamane '11 sing a duet at the Resonance Fall Concert on Friday, November 20 in 10-250.

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- 1 ___ the Hutt
6 R.E. Lee's nation
9 Titled ladies
14 Of bees
15 Capp and Capone
16 Get all melodramatic
17 Paris subway
18 Old cloth
19 Relish
20 Badminton player's forte?
23 Actress Dahl
26 Arctic explorer John
27 One-eighty from WNW
28 Seismologist's forte?
32 Designer of the Vietnam Memorial
33 Successor of Ramses I
34 Trial runs
38 Without delay!
40 Alex Haley book
43 Rex's stout sleuth
44 Complains
46 Flying mammals
48 Sea of France

- 49 Mason's forte?
53 Mr. Ziegfeld
56 Before, before
57 Takes care of
58 Wrestler's forte?
62 Subarctic forest
63 Big __, CA
64 Russian villa
68 Input
69 Keatsian work
70 "___ Frome"
71 Medicated
72 Recent
73 Staggers

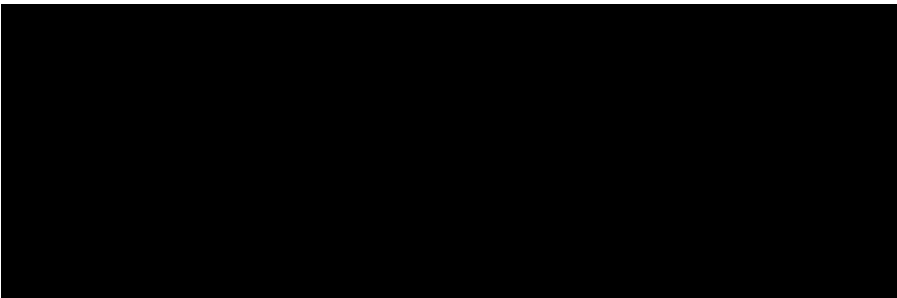
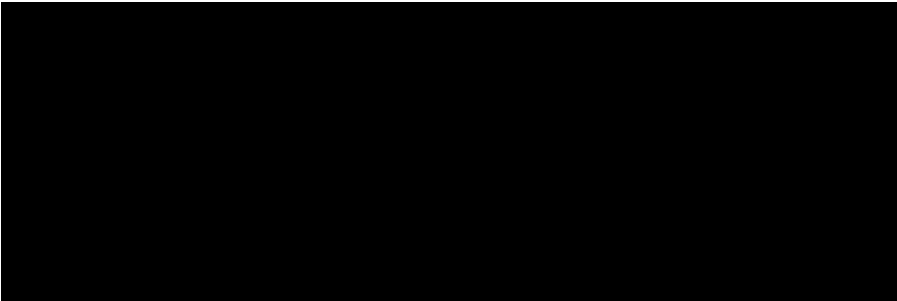
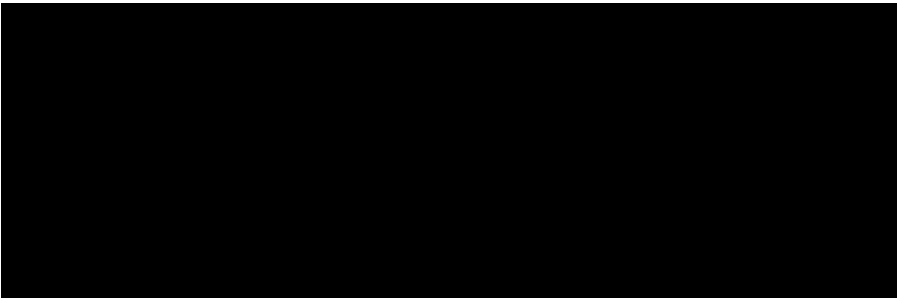
DOWN

- 1 Tight spot
2 Simian
3 Tiny portion
4 Sensory organ of a catfish
5 Applies oils to
6 Corker
7 Side order, briefly
8 Odin's place
9 Way down
10 Asian nanny
11 Flick
12 Certain collars
13 Suit material

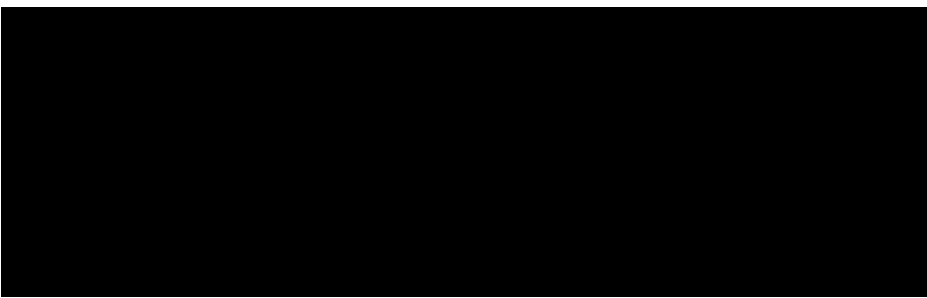
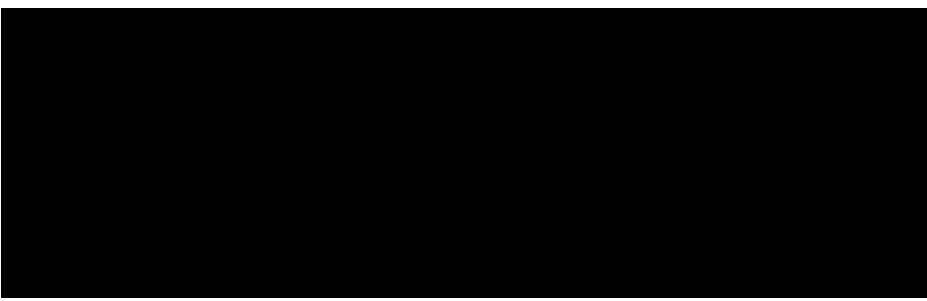
- 21 Pass on (to)
22 Mai ___ cocktail
23 Company with a spokesduck
24 Mrs. Gorbachev
25 Of the moon
29 Simpson trial judge
30 Tearful woman
31 O.T. book
35 Finalists' determiner
36 City on the Adige
37 Silage growth
39 2nd letter add-on
41 Fancy marble
42 East German secret police
45 Estate manager
47 Long and thin
50 Sphere
51 Actor Liam
52 Papal emissary
53 Wined and dined
54 Argentine plain
55 Final bios
59 S-shaped molding
60 Bare
61 Sketched
65 Fidel's comrade
66 Actor Linden
67 T or F, e.g.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Sudoku

Difficulty Level: Medium
Solution, page 13

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | | 7 | |
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| | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | | 3 |
| 9 | | 8 | | 4 | | | | 1 |
| | 6 | | 2 | | | | | |

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Difficulty Level: Very Hard
Solution, page 12

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 1 | | | 4 | 6 | | |
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| | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | | 4 | 8 | | | 5 | 1 | 2 |

Bonus Crossword
Solution, page 13

DOWN

- 1 Successful punches
- 2 Cries of delight
- 3 Workout attire
- 4 File marker
- 5 Italian pilgrimage site
- 6 Necessitate
- 7 Eurasian crows
- 8 Time period
- 9 Wild blue yonder
- 10 Look at
- 11 Make changes to
- 12 Chop into small pieces
- 13 Guide
- 18 Miscue
- 22 Novelist Anita
- 24 Mimics
- 25 Frankenstein’s helper
- 26 Meddlesome
- 27 Bangkok cuisine

- 28 Tobacco kiln
- 29 Tiny particles
- 32 Type of party
- 33 Prayer ender
- 34 Caroled
- 36 Audible weeping
- 37 Santa’s sackful
- 38 Soap bar
- 40 Would-be atty.’s hurdle
- 41 Treble sign
- 42 Chevy model
- 43 Hebrew month
- 44 Maps in maps
- 45 Felix Salten’s fawn
- 46 Perfect
- 47 Desert greenery
- 50 Etc.’s cousin
- 52 Italian eight
- 53 Second-hand
- 55 Small boy
- 56 Cockney aspiration

57 Circle part

ACROSS

- 1 Emcee
- 5 Dreaded mosquito
- 10 Ewes’ guys
- 14 Hawkeye’s state
- 15 Carroll critter
- 16 Send out
- 17 Start of Evan Esar quip
- 19 DNA unit
- 20 9-digit ID org.
- 21 Long, narrow inlets
- 22 Simple weapon
- 23 Ankle bones
- 25 Arranged
- 27 Part 2 of quip
- 30 Rutger of “Blade Runner”
- 31 Fling
- 32 Faux __ (social blunder)

- 35 Buyer-beware phrase
- 36 Part 3 of quip
- 38 Unconscious state
- 39 Addams Family cousin
- 40 Weaver’s frame
- 41 Greek physician
- 42 Part 4 of quip
- 45 Renewable energy source
- 48 Narrow coastal opening
- 49 Go with the flow
- 50 Latin being
- 51 \$ promise
- 54 Tableland
- 55 End of quip
- 58 Security cash
- 59 Separated
- 60 Charge per unit
- 61 “Casablanca” role
- 62 Cold-cut palaces
- 63 Hunk of dirt

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| 27 | 28 | | | | | | 29 | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | 33 | 34 | |
| 35 | | | | | 36 | 37 | | | | | 38 | | | |
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Changes to S^3 Caused Uproar Among Many Faculty

S^3, from Page 1

which Simonis was dismissed was “inconsistent with Institute culture and procedures.”

A July 2 letter addressed to Clay from current and former faculty members of the Committee on Academic Performance lamented the changes to S^3: “The academic careers (and even lives) of innumerable MIT students have been saved ... thanks to [Simonis’s] work ... These recent actions ... have created a tentativeness within the Student Support Office and the overall support system for our students.”

The Committee on Academic Performance decides when to give students academic warnings or require them to withdraw from the Institute. S^3 advises CAP on many students’ cases, and the S^3 deans “often have a much better picture than anyone else of what’s going on,” said Jessica T. McKellar G, who was CAP member for three years as an undergraduate.

“We do not believe that CAP can properly fulfill its duties to the fac-

ulty in collaboration with a Student Support Office in such a state,” the CAP letter to Clay went on.

The letter recommended that the Simonis layoff and other interim changes be reversed since they “put the Institute’s core mission at risk.”

In response to these concerns, Faculty Chair Thomas A. Kochan arranged a meeting between concerned faculty, Clay, Vice Chancellor Steven R. Lerman PhD ’80, and Colombo, during which, “All parties ... acknowledge[d] the seriousness of the issues and concerns raised by the faculty,” according to an article in the September/October Faculty Newsletter.

At this meeting, faculty and administrators agreed to create a joint faculty-administration-student task force to review S^3.

The committee, which is co-chaired by Professor W. Eric L. Grimson PhD ’80 and Lerman, will not address the significance or circumstances of Simonis’s layoff or the interim changes planned during the summer, which were rolled back before the 2009 fall term began. The

committee was also not specifically asked to address budget cuts that affect S^3.

The task force was originally due to submit its report to Clay on October 30 and has not yet done so, but should “very soon,” Clay wrote in an e-mail yesterday.

Changes to Student Support Services “put the Institute’s core mission at risk.” — current and former members of CAP

Discussion with administrators and the task force’s creation has renewed some faculty members’ faith in the administration and in S^3’s ability to support students. Active discussion about the events that provoked a storm over the summer appears to have ceased.

Still, concerns linger among oth-

er faculty who never felt satisfied by the administrative response to their grievances.

Professor and former member of the faculty Committee on Student Life John W. Belcher said he, too, was upset that faculty, including those on the CSL, were not consulted prior to Simonis layoff. Belcher said that in his 38 years at the Institute, “I’ve never quite seen this kind of reaction.”

He said he is “still not happy with the actions” that have been taken to resolve faculty concerns. He sees “the appearance of a conflict of interest” in the membership of the S^3 task force: Since three of its members report to Clay, the group’s work “doesn’t have the appearance of an independent review.”

Several faculty and administrators, including Clay, Kochan, and task force members Professor and CAP Chair David A. Pesetsky, Grimson, and Colombo did not respond to or declined requests to be interviewed for this article stating variously that it would not be appropriate to discuss S^3 while it was undergoing review.

The events that transpired over the summer had, thus far, only been detailed publicly in the September/October issue of the Faculty Newsletter, which is the source of all letters excerpted in this article.

Legacy

While Simonis’s dismissal from S^3 will not be reversed, her legacy as a dean lives, perhaps most powerfully in the minds of students whose lives she directly impacted.

Grace Kenney ’07, who worked with Simonis both before and after she took time off from MIT, said she was shocked when she found out in an October 25 e-mail on the *ec-discuss* mailing list that Simonis

had been laid off.

Kenney said that Simonis helped through an academic crisis in her sophomore year. “Things were spiraling out of control and I couldn’t figure out how to get back on track,” Kenney said. Simonis “got me to calm down and helped me figure out a plan to get things back together,” she said.

During that time, Kenney met with Simonis every one or two weeks. Later, around the time of her graduation, she stopped by Simonis’s office to thank her for her support earlier on. Kenney is now a PhD student at Northwestern University.

Sari A. Canelake ’10, who also worked with Simonis during a period of academic struggles, learned about Simonis’ dismissal in the same *ec-discuss* e-mail.

She said Simonis helped her decide not to drop out of MIT, take a year off, and switch courses (from 5 to 6). Later, she reviewed Canelake’s application to be readmitted to MIT.

“I felt like she cared that I was doing poorly and happy that I was doing well,” said Canelake, which was especially valuable since “My parents have never really been involved in my education.”

When she discovered that Simonis had been laid off, “my jaw dropped,” Canelake said. “It was like finding out your close family member left.”

The Division of Student Life’s decision to dismiss Simonis made them seem “out of touch” with the student body, the very group it is their job to serve, said Canelake.

McKellar said that Simonis’s experience made her “a very good advocate for students” and gave her “a good sense of when student could come back and be successful.”

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND



Solution to Hard Sudoku

from page 11

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| 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 |

Solution to Crossword

from page 10

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | A | B | B | A | C | S | A | D | A | M | E | S |
| A | P | I | A | N | A | L | S | E | M | O | T | E |
| M | E | T | R | O | R | A | G | S | A | V | O | R |
| B | I | R | D | W | A | T | C | H | I | N | G | |
| A | R | L | E | N | E | R | A | E | E | S | E | |
| F | A | U | L | T | F | I | N | D | I | N | G | |
| L | I | N | S | E | T | I | T | E | S | T | S | |
| A | S | A | P | R | O | O | T | S | N | E | R | O |
| C | A | R | P | S | B | A | T | S | M | E | R | |
| S | T | O | N | E | W | A | L | L | I | N | G | |
| F | L | O | E | R | E | S | E | E | S | T | O | |
| E | L | B | O | W | B | E | N | D | I | N | G | |
| T | A | I | G | A | S | U | R | D | A | C | H | A |
| E | N | T | E | R | O | D | E | E | T | H | A | N |
| D | O | S | E | D | N | E | W | R | E | E | L | S |

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Transfer Students Enjoy MIT's Challenges and Rigor

Transfer Students, from Page 1

hope that they apply as a transfer,” he says.

As hard as it is to get into MIT, it's even harder to transfer in. Crowley says that there are very few spots for transfer students, who take the place of students who drop out, take a leave of absence or study abroad. This fall, only 6 percent of transfer applicants, or 24 students, were accepted. The regular admission rate was 10.2 percent. 21 of the 24 accepted transfer applicants chose to enroll at MIT.

Many students who were turned away the first time spend the next year at a backup college building their resumes. Shimeon Zerbib, a sophomore in courses 18 and 14, applied for the class of 2012 but was rejected. He was pretty sure he knew why he hadn't gotten in: He had received his GED at 17 but never really graduated high school. Then he applied when he was 22, after spending 5 years out of school. After he was rejected, he started at New York University planning to transfer to MIT.

Crowley remembers Zerbib as a very strong applicant his first time around, but found a few things lacking in his application. Crowley was very happy to see Zerbib come back as a transfer. Zerbib had “been in the pipeline for a while,” Crowley says. The classes Zerbib took while at NYU were designed to fill whatever gaps there were in his application, and to serve as the prerequisites for a smooth transfer to MIT.

Crowley says that many students, like Zerbib, are in a much better position to apply after a year of college than after high school. Some students “really hit the ground running in college,” he says. “That’s the transformative element for them that makes them a very appealing transfer student.”

Sabine Schneider, now a sophomore in course 7, says her good grades at college and the close relationships she built with her professors at St. John’s University in New York helped her transfer to MIT. Though she had been rejected the first time, her professors at St. John’s recommended that she reapply.

It was a hard choice for Schneider to transfer. After she was denied at MIT, she immersed herself in college life at St. John’s. She didn’t want to obsess over what could have been. “Let’s buckle down, let’s do this,” she told herself. But Schneider was drawn by the allure of MIT’s biology program and cancer research labs, even though she’d built up a life and had friends at St. John’s. She was torn. It was difficult to motivate herself to fill out the transfer application.

But her doubts vanished as soon as she heard that she had been accepted. “I was like ‘Yeah, I’m going,’” she says.

Other students never even considered MIT when they started looking at colleges. Raghu Mahajan, a junior in Courses 8 and 18, was ranked first out of 200,000 on the standardized test which determines college placement in India. There’s a lot of pressure on you when you’re in the top ranks, Mahajan says. You’re expected to stay in India and major in the most prestigious subjects, which in India are computer science and electrical engineering. Mahajan chose to major in computer science at the India Institute of Technology in New Delhi.

But Mahajan soon realized he really wanted to study physics, and IIT would not let him change majors. His professors encouraged him to apply to MIT. They knew MIT was better for physics, he says.

Crowley says Mahajan, with his strong academic background, was an excellent candidate for a transfer student. He’ll have a Nobel Prize someday, Crowley says.

Some students realize they want to attend MIT only after seeing what life is like elsewhere. Christian Perez, a sophomore in Course 14, went to Northwestern University for a year but found that the curriculum was too easy for him. He knew he would have a much better chance at graduate school for economics if he went to a place like MIT with a more challenging curriculum and better research opportunities.

According to Crowley, students like Perez and Mahajan, who are driven to MIT after other schools have failed to give them what they

need, stand out as transfer students because they will use the resources at MIT to their full advantage.

Academics at the Institute

Crowley is extremely proud of MIT’s transfer students, speaking of them in glowing terms and calling them “future CEOs.” “They’re great kids,” he says.

The students themselves are not always so confident. Lekha Kuhananthan, a second-semester freshman, is grateful to be at MIT, but calls her acceptance “a happy fluke.” She doesn’t see what changed after she was denied the first time around. Zerbib feels like he’s still playing catch up at MIT. “I’m just a regular student,” he says, “there’s nowhere

Most transfer students find that the academic bar at MIT is set much higher than at their previous college.

I can say — ‘oh, this is where I’m amazing.’” Since Zerbib hadn’t been in school for a long time before attending NYU, he felt had to relearn all of his study habits.

Schneider also feels that she started off behind in her classes. She says she feels a little inferior, especially compared to the freshmen who have placed ahead into her sophomore level classes, that she’s so far behind and can’t change it.

Schneider compares being a new transfer student to being an older freshman. “You’re new to this whole thing,” she says. Transfer students have to deal with many of the same adjustment issues that freshmen do, but they don’t get the same advantages.

All transfers, regardless of how many years they’ve spent at their previous college, start as sophomores at MIT. Transfer students can petition, like Kuhananthan did, to start as a second semester freshman, which means they don’t have to declare a major, and they get an extra semester of financial aid. Many transfer stu-

dents start their first semester in GIR classes like 3.091 and 18.02, which are full of newly minted freshmen, but, unlike those freshmen, transfer students don’t get pass/no record grading. This can be frustrating for people like Zerbib who try to work in study groups only to find the freshmen have different goals. “People are studying for a 50, and you’re studying for a 100,” says Zerbib.

Most transfer students find that the academic bar at MIT is set much higher than at their previous college. Schneider says the professors at St. John’s broke their material down into bite size pieces and fed it to them in lecture, a method she hasn’t seen at MIT. Schneider often finds her classes here much more satisfying. “For the first time in my life I have the feeling that my exam grades really count for something,” she says. At other times, it’s extremely frustrating. I know exactly how much easier this would be somewhere else, she says. When she showed her old friends at St. John’s one of her Organic Chemistry tests, they responded “Oh, this is hard.”

Kuhananthan also both enjoys and struggles with the academics at MIT. “At UT I was always at the top, and here I finally know what it’s like to struggle and earn a grade,” she says. “It’s a challenge, and I think that’s what I love about it.”

The transfer students say that students are more serious here, but also tighter-knit. “People here are very focused on doing very well in what they do,” says Zerbib. He feels that MIT and NYU are both excellent schools, but describes the atmosphere at MIT as “more my style.” Schneider likes that students bond over difficult courses. At St. John’s she describes the atmosphere as students versus students, while at MIT she sees it more as students against the institution. “It’s just wonderful, the feeling of community,” she says of MIT.

Other Quirks Around Campus

Many MIT students are involved in sports and extracurriculars, taking advantage of the broad offerings available in both categories. When Kuhananthan transferred in she noticed that “everybody seems to have

some type of passion or something they’re interested in.” Kuhananthan has been trying her hand at various student activities: Most recently, she has been involved in the Musical Theatre Guild.

A lot of transfer students come from schools where sports played a much bigger role than at MIT. Kuhananthan’s previous school in Texas was obsessed with football, and she likes that she doesn’t feel the same pressure at MIT. “Here’s it’s OK if you don’t notice sports,” she says.

Schneider and Perez both came from schools where they played very competitive sports. Perez misses having more people to play tennis with. Schneider was on a Division I track and cross country team at St. John’s, a sport she has continued here, but MIT’s team is in a lower division. Schneider does note how impressed she was that MIT sports were so inclusive and almost all teams take novices. That’s a “really special thing about MIT,” she says.

There are often many more resources available at MIT than at a transfer student’s previous college. Mahajan likes how much technology is available to students, and admits the Internet connection in his IIT dormitory was painfully slow. In general, Perez observes that “everything seems to be upgraded — besides the dining.”

The move to Boston also introduces some stark differences for some transfer students. Zerbib calls Boston a “little cute village” compared to New York City and doesn’t like the fact that everything, even the T, closes at night. “MIT’s not in the center of the Village,” he says, referring to NYU’s placement in the middle of Greenwich Village, a lively neighborhood of New York. Kuhananthan complains that even in November the weather is already freezing. Although, she says, laughing, “I did buy a coat.”

Solution to Bonus Crossword
from page 11

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KITTYS ALL DA WAY DOWN



Transfers Are Another Way To Increase Undergrad Enrollment

More Undergrads, from Page 1

order for MIT to start accepting more freshmen.

It is not clear when W1 will be finished, or even if there will be money to finish it. Budget problems are holding the project back. “It’s all about the funds available to complete,” said Sonia Richards, the project manager for the W1 renovation. A large, anonymous donation is helping to fund this stage of the construction.

Because of a lack of clear plans and budget, there is no current indication of when the construction at W1 will be completed, though it will not be in the near future.

“It is very difficult for us to commit to any time frame,” Richards said. Currently, workers are repairing the exterior of the building. They plan to finish in January 2010, at which point they will begin interior demolition. That phase is scheduled through March 2010. Richards said there are no plans past next March.

Some preliminary plans have been confirmed. Richards said the dorm will have a dining facility. In planning the building, the historical aspect of Ashdown was kept in mind. “We are attempting to maintain the historical components in the building. That was one of our number one goals during the design of the project,” said Richards.

GIRs are bottlenecks

More freshmen also means more-crowded freshman classes. Already, classes like 7.012 and 3.091 are so big that the students cannot all fit into one lecture hall. Lectures have to be broadcast to overflow classrooms.

The Technology Enabled Active Learning courses, 8.01 (Physics I) and 8.02 (Physics II), are particularly hard to scale up. Both 8.01 and 8.02 are operating near maximum capacity. Peter A. Dourmashkin ’76, one

of the developers of TEAL and a current 8.01 instructor, said that the issue isn’t as simple as space — adding more students goes “all the way around: more work, more students, more time.” In TEAL, the rooms are already almost at capacity, and ideally, they would be under capacity so that students can get more personal attention. Dourmashkin added that the problem “isn’t black or white.” MIT has to balance the national demand for more scientists and engineers with the difficulties of adding undergraduates. “I think [increasing class size] is worth it in terms of rewards across the large picture,” said Dourmashkin.

Transfers may increase

One way to increase enrollment without putting as much pressure on housing and the GIRs is to admit transfer students, who could live off-campus and may have passed out of most GIRs. MIT might also admit more transfer students of a particular major to fill departments that are operating under capacity.

But it is not clear that MIT has enough transfer applicants to pad out undergraduate enrollment. “A careful examination of the pool of transfer students needs to occur,” Schmill said. Every year, a couple hundred apply for transfer admissions, and about six percent, or 20 students, are admitted. If MIT were to suddenly decide to accept 50 or 100 transfers, it might not be able to find enough qualified students. Schmill said that the transfer students MIT currently takes are extremely talented, and that additional transfers would have to be just as talented.

Schmill said MIT might need to start recruiting transfer students in order to adequately increase class size.

Net cost of students unknown

MIT is not increasing undergraduate enrollment for the money, Schmill said. At this point, it is not

even clear if MIT will make or lose money by admitting more students. More students means more tuition, but also more costs, to educate and house them. Because of need-blind admissions and MIT’s commitment to meeting all demonstrated need for admitted students, it is difficult to estimate whether there will be a net gain or loss of revenue from the addition of students. “Whether costs overwhelm tuition revenue, we don’t know at this point,” Schmill said.

MIT once had 4,500 undergraduates, when many freshmen lived at fraternities. MIT stopped that practice after a freshman died of alcohol intoxication in 1997. In order to fit the entire freshman class in the dormitories, MIT started admitting fewer freshmen.

Hastings says that the fact that MIT has successfully educated 4,500 undergraduates in the past indicates that it can happen again. “No one believes that the quality of our education then was somehow worse than now,” says Hastings. “The historical evidence is that we can teach 4,500 students and we can do it well.”

In the end, Schmill believes that despite the obstacles, increasing MIT’s student body will have a positive impact on campus. “There is an obvious advantage if you get more talented students — potential for student organizations, sports teams, music, classes ... the campus would benefit in a really big way,” said Schmill. With any increase, however, there are risks that must be carefully evaluated, said Schmill, adding, “We want to make sure any sort of increase in undergraduate student body size wouldn’t have a negative impact on the educational experience”. Hastings also says that any increases that happen should not come at the cost of educational quality, but “the assumption is that the current size is optimal. The current size is what people know. There’s no evidence that the current size is optimal.”

Huang, Mo & Amadi Headed for Oxford With Rhodes Grants

Rhodes, from Page 1

Amadi has served as president of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Society. She founded the brain and cognitive freshman pre-orientation program, is an MIT Burchard humanities scholar, and has mentored middle school girls for three years through the STEM Summer Institute program. She plans to continue her studies with a M. Sc. in psychological research at Oxford.

Caroline Huang

Huang (Newark, Delaware — District 4) will also graduate this spring with a major in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, with minors in psychology and political science. She founded MIT’s branch of Camp Kesem — a free, student-run summer camp for children of cancer patients — and has completed research on MRI imaging, with applications to dyslexia, as well as on casual learning in children.

Adding to her list of activities, Huang is also an EMT, contributing editor for *The Tech*, co-chair of the Student Health Advisory Committee, and has interned for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy as well as the Cambridge Women’s Commission. At Oxford, she plans to earn a doctorate in public health “with a focus on bioethics.”

“Eventually, I would like to be a health policy professor and government advisor, conducting research on other ethical questions in health care and creating support mechanisms to help families dealing with difficult situations,” Huang wrote in an e-mail to *The Tech*.

Steven Mo

Mo (Pearland, Texas — District

8) is a senior majoring in Biology with a minor in economics. Mo spent his junior year abroad, studying biochemistry and molecular biology through the Cambridge MIT Exchange.

At MIT, he has been active in research, studying breast cancer pathology at Cambridge and tumor suppressing nanoparticles at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. For his research, he has been named an MIT Burchard Scholar, an MIT Amgen Scholar, and has received the MIT Johnson & Johnson Excellence in Biomedical Engineering Research Prize.

Mo has also taught for MIT’s Educational Studies Program’s Splash and Splash on Wheels for multiple years, and is president of the MIT Student Ambassador Program and MIT’s Chapter of National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

At Oxford, he hopes to earn a doctorate in biomedical engineering.

As a long-term goal, Mo says that he hopes to return to the U.S. and possibly serve as a leader in a biotechnology company, non-profit organization, or government agency such as the NIH, although he said he’s keeping the option of becoming a professor open.

“Right now, I’m still open to [the idea of] being a professor. It was always one of my dreams, but as I realized, there are more ways that you can impact things in society.”

“I just hope to come back to the States and inspire next generation of young scientist,” he says.

Amadi, Huang, and Mo will join a long list of over 40 MIT alumni who received the award when they begin their fellowships next fall.

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SPORTS

Women’s Cross Country Places Fifth at NCAA Div. III Nationals

Seniors Monks, Wentz Finish in Top 30, Earn All-American Honors

By Greg McKeever
DAPER STAFF

In its second straight appearance at the NCAA Division III Championship, the MIT women’s cross country team improved to a fifth-place showing at Saturday’s national meet, hosted by Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Maria J. Monks ’10 and Jacqueline M. Wentz ’10 led the way for the Cardinal and Grey, as each earned All-American honors, the first such accolades for the program since 1998. Monks’ 13th-place finish marks the best individual effort at the NCAA

Championship in school history. Monks’s time of 22:29.5 easily eclipsed the previous Institute standard, a 26th-place showing by Debbie Won ’00 in 1998. Wentz also had an impressive performance, crossing the finish with a time of 22:43.6 and in 29th. Alina E. Gatowski ’11 (23:08.2) narrowly missed the top 50 with her 51st-place standing. Tania K. Morimoto ’12 came through the chute in 23:49.1, good for 128th overall. Brooke C. Johnson ’13’s time of 23:58.8 was good for 145th, and 23rd best among all freshmen at the meet. The Cardinal and Grey was able to improve upon its 10th-place showing in 2008, the only other NCAA Cham-

pionship appearance in program history, and finish among the top five teams in all of Division III. Tech finished just 10 points behind defending national champion Middlebury’s total of 245. The two teams shared the New England Regional title a week ago. Wisconsin-Eau Claire won the team Championship with 171 points. Wendy Pavlus of St. Lawrence was the individual winner, finishing in 21:28.0. Coach Halston Taylor has developed the program into one of the top squads in New England and nationally. Although the Engineers will miss the senior leadership of Monks and Wentz, five of the top seven runners will return next year.



ELLIAH MENA—THE TECH
Michael G. Zomnir ’11 (right) competes against a Northwestern University player in a squash match on Friday, November 20. MIT lost overall, 2-7.

Tech Escapes RPI, 56-55, In Tip-Off Tournament Final

MIT Men’s basketball improved to 3-0 this weekend with two wins in the Tip-Off Tournament at RPI. The Engineers blew out John Abbott College 78-38 in the first round, and edged host RPI 56-55 in the final.



In the finals matchup against RPI, neither team was able to put the game away late in the second half, as both teams had several missed opportunities. The winning shot by Erik S. Zuk ’11 came with 13 seconds left, off a missed free RPI free throw.

Mitchell H. Kates ’13 was named the Tournament MVP and joined Noel Hollingsworth ’12 on the All-Tournament team. MIT returns to action on Tuesday at Curry College.

—David Zhu, Sports Editor

Water Polo Takes Seventh At Eastern Championship

In a rematch of last year’s seventh-place game of the Eastern Championships, the MIT Men’s Water Polo Team topped Iona College 9-8 on Sunday in the Z-Center pool. Devin M. Lewis ’10 and Mark E. Artz ’10 had three goals apiece as the Engineers built an early lead and were able to hang on for the win. Columbus P. Leonard ’12 led the MIT defense with six saves in goal.



MIT finishes its season with a 9-16 overall record, including 3-3 in conference play.

—David Zhu, Sports Editor

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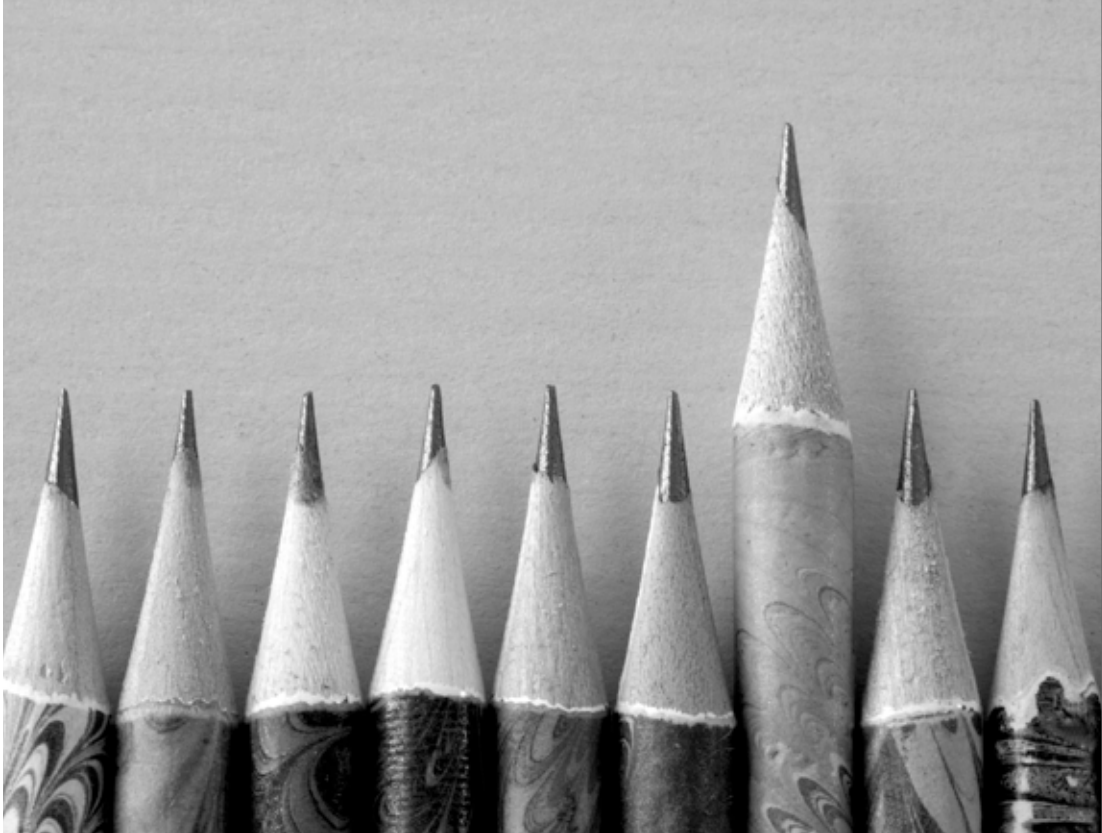
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